

REMARKS

Pending Claims 1-10 and 12-24 have been rejected, which rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons presented below. Claim 11 has been canceled, without prejudice.

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith, including the citation of USPN 6,315,515 (incorrectly originally cited as 6,313,515), and particular Applicant webpages.

The Section 112 Rejections

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons, and an appropriately labeled replacement drawing sheet bearing new FIGURES 13-16 is provided. FIGURES 13-16 include features disclosed in the application as originally filed, including those inherently disclosed; the Examiner is asked to make a careful examination of same to ensure that no new matter has been added.

With regard to the drawing objection concerning Claims 18, 19 and 21, Applicant states as follows. Regarding Claim 18, there is a clear disclosure supporting this claim: namely, the original application at page 9, lines 4-6, explains that receiving tubes 35 “may be slid over opposing ends of cross bar 30....” (refer to FIGURE 6, for example). See also the Craze Declaration at ¶ 3, for alternative embodiments of Claim 18 which are disclosed in patents incorporated by reference into the instant application. Regarding Claims 19 and 21, “alternate

towing apparatus” such as “frame fork attachments” are so well known in the art and literature, as shown by Applicant’s webpages (Tab 2, circled items; see also Craze Declaration, ¶¶ 2-4), that it is not believed that additional drawings are necessary to show these.

Additionally, Claims 1, 6, 19 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 in light of the term “rapidly.” That term has been further clarified by the inventor (Craze Dec., ¶ 1) to mean rapid conversion in the field in a matter of minutes – a feat which Nolasco is clearly not capable of, as further addressed below

The Obviousness And Anticipation Rejections

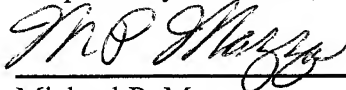
Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13 and 15-16 have been rejected as anticipated by Nolasco, while all of the pending claims have been rejected as obvious over Nolasco in light of various other cited patents. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Nolasco fails to disclose a device whose wheel lift apparatus may be “rapidly disassembled from the crossbar in the field to permit conversion from the wheel lift apparatus to an alternate towing apparatus.” Instead, Nolasco discloses the use of coil springs 31, 32 attached within hollow slider arms 16, 17 of wheel lifts 14, 15 for providing tension to claw arm members 20, 21; each coil spring is attached by threaded hooks 33, 34 to respective end plates 35, 36, which are permanently welded to slider arms 16, 17 (Nolasco, col. 6, first paragraph; Nolasco, FIGURE 3). Clearly the slider arms are not intended to be disassembled from the cross bar, as further explained by the inventor (Craze

Declaration, ¶ 1). In fact, the inventor explains that the assignee of the Nolasco patent, Weldbuilt, appropriated and displayed the present invention (id., ¶ 1). Mr. Craze was personally familiar with the Weldbuilt device, as Weldbuilt wished to display a unit which was capable of rapid disassembly, as its own design was not (id., ¶ 1).

Applicant also notes that Kiefer (USPN 5,575,606) fails to disclose the use of a powering mechanism for its L-arms. Nor do Peterson or Purkott remedy these deficiencies in Nolasco and Kiefer.

If the next written communication is intended to be other than a notice of allowance, Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted prior to the issuance of such communication.

Respectfully submitted,



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